GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1162
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2002
ELECTRIFICATION OF REMOTE VILLAGES
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether target of electrifications of 18000 remote villages are to be achieved through augmentations of 10 per cent of renewable energy resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the allocation of funds made therefor; and

(d) the incentives given by the Government to promote generations of renewable energy resources?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN)

(a)&(b): About 80,000 villages in the country still remain to be electrified. Of these, about 18,000 villages are estimated to be in remote and difficult areas which cannot be electrified by extension of the conventional grid. It is proposed to electrify all such villages by the year 2012 through renewable energy sources. It is also proposed that 10% of the new power generation capacity to be added till 2012 should be based on renewable energy sources. These two objectives however are not directly linked.

(c): An allocation of Rs.20 crores has been made for the village electrification programme in the budget of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources during 2001-2002. An amount of Rs.75 crores has been included in the budget estimates for 2002-2003 for this programme.

(d): Government has provided a number of incentives to promote the utilization of renewable energy sources. These include exemption from excise duty for many renewable energy devices, concessional customs duty on imported materials and components, 100% accelerated depreciation for commercial establishments, soft loans for the manufacture and use of renewable energy equipment, subsidies on selected items, etc. Some state governments have also announced favourable policies to facilitate generation of power for supply to the grid using renewable energy sources.